

CHOCOLATES, HANDKERCHIEF, HANDWRITING AND POISON---ALL TRACED TO MRS. BOTKIN

FAC-SIMILE OF THE PAGE OF THE POISON RECORD BOOK OF DRUGGIST GREY SHOWING THE ENTRY OF MRS. BOTKIN'S PURCHASE.

DATE	TIME	NAME OF PURCHASER	ADDRESS OF PURCHASER	NAME OF POISON	QUANTITY SOLD	FOR WHAT PURPOSE USED	NAME OF DISPENSER
6.198	2 Pm	Mrs Botkin	Cal & Hyde Sts	Arsenic	3 rd	Bleaching	Grey

THE CASE AGAINST MRS. BOTKIN UP TO DATE.

DURING the last fortnight the San Francisco police have forged a number of important new links in the chain of evidence against Mrs. Cordelia Botkin, who is charged with the murder of Mrs. J. P. Dunning and Mrs. J. D. Deane, of Dover, Del. Mrs. Botkin was arrested on August 23. Since then each day has brought its interesting developments. The Sunday Journal gave a careful, analytical study of Mrs. Botkin, together with the history of the case to that date, September 4. To-day it presents the new facts that have been brought to light within the past two weeks.

The police have worked systematically upon three leading points in the mystery—first, to find where the candy that was poisoned and sent across the continent had been made and purchased; second, where the handkerchief enclosed with the bomb had been bought, and third, what druggist had sold the arsenic that caused the death of the two victims. They have apparently been successful in securing all these vitally important bits of evidence.

MRS. CORDELIA BOTKIN, the woman who was arrested in San Francisco August 23, charged with the murder of John P. Dunning, her husband, is rapidly losing her self-possession and the stoic philosophy that marked her bearing during the first days of her imprisonment.

And well she may, for the net-work of evidence that has been forming about her steadily and unrelentingly is now almost complete, without even the shadow of a flaw.

It does not seem possible that the evidence collected can be falsely circumstantial. From the very first every development in the case has pointed unmistakably to Mrs. Botkin as the guilty one, and absolutely nothing has turned up to shake the conviction of the police and public that it was her hand that sent death across the continent.

The San Francisco police have brought many important facts to light during the past fortnight.

Immediately preceding these discoveries the accusation of John P. Dunning, husband of the murdered woman, was made public. It showed that he had no hesitancy in pointing out Mrs. Botkin as the one guilty of the death of his wife and Mrs. Deane, his sister-in-law.

The accusation was based upon his identification of the note sent with the box of poisoned candy as being in the handwriting of Mrs. Botkin. The note read: "With love to yourself and baby, Mrs. C."

Besides this, Dunning identified some mysterious anonymous letters which had been sent to his wife as having been written by Mrs. Botkin. The letters had been sent to Mrs. Dunning with the evident intention of turning her against her husband, accusing him of unfaithfulness and calling attention to his questionable life in San Francisco.

It seems that Mrs. Dunning had sent a copy of one of these anonymous letters to her husband while he was in Salt Lake City, asking for an explanation. He, in turn, not knowing it to be a copy, and seeing that it plainly referred to his companionship with Mrs. Botkin, sent it to her for a suggestion as to the probable author.

Mrs. Botkin had answered that the letter was undoubtedly from a certain Mrs. Seely, who had been more or less intimate with Dunning during his life in San Francisco. It therefore somewhat surprised Dunning when he saw the original of this letter after the murder to find it had been written by Mrs. Botkin herself.

There had been four of these letters in all, and each one is identified as in the handwriting of Mrs. Botkin. One, under the date of July 10, 1897, has been made public. The first and last pages of the letter are reproduced on this page. In part it is as follows:

"San Francisco, July 10, 1897.
"Mrs. Dunning—I sincerely hope you have made all due inquiry concerning the grave information I sent you—out of the pure interest I have in you—concerning the conduct of your husband, and if you have not you are not the woman I always supposed you were if you would ever renew former living with a man that so forgot you as he did and placed you in the position he so premeditatedly did."
M130

"He was constantly with this interesting and pretty woman who by the way is an English woman. She is now divorced from her husband all owing to the marked intimacy with Mr. Dunning."

"Now do not misunderstand me concerning my saying of this woman, as she is and was a lady by birth and education, and an interlude of her girlhood who had danced then on the other hand they both of them

lived in the extreme delight of a quiet bohemian life. You can make all the inquiries you want at the address I gave you.

"I am sure you ought to ask for your own satisfaction even the gentleman that place has the position in your husband's name. Could tell you all you want to know and by all that is just in this life to you that position ought to be now held by Mr. D. only his dissipation morally and through drink has placed his family and himself where they are."

"YOUR FRIEND."
The marked resemblance between the address on the envelope of the anonymous letter reproduced here and that on the package of poisonous candy is a very important piece of evidence.

Therefore Kyrie, the well-known handwriting expert, has been making a careful study of Mrs. Botkin's handwriting, and at the proper time will present the result of

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The match, ill-assorted, was for that reason, perhaps, doubly celebrated; first at Munich, then in Naples. Presently it occurred to Bombe that he had done all the evil that he could. Amid the clamors and cries of sedition and hatred he vacated the planet, leaving behind nothing but a rotten reputation and a rickety throne. The one still subsists, the other has gone. Yet that throne, however rickety, it took Garibaldi to overthrow. The young queen fought for it, not for herself, but for her child, pushing her husband to the front, wrenching the sword from his trembling hand, brandishing it in her own, holding and defending Gaeta, the last Bourbon stronghold, against Victor Emmanuel himself. So splendid was that defense that it threw Europe into paroxysms of applause. Subsequently she came to Paris, where in and with her girlhood she had danced in a quadrille of royals, every one of whom

on her return was either dead, exiled or insane.

Then came the succession of incidents which Dandlet has told so aptly and so pathos when she would have bartered her well, the transformation of her husband from a coward into a cannibal; the miseries of the shabby-genteel, the backseat of outworn monarchy, incidents poignant in themselves, yet followed by others more poignant still, the suicide of her cousin, the murder of her nephew, the destruction of one sister and the assassination of another. If ever a woman has sipped on horrors, it is she.

It was a road less tortuous, perhaps, yet quite as gothic, on which Elizabeth of Austria trod. In Vienna the Prince who had won her, quickly turned to woe elsewhere. Such things can torture a woman. An Empress may only smile. Moreover, in the splendor of the Imperial court she was regarded as a Bavarian peasant. Such things will keep a woman awake. An Empress may not seem to heed. Then came other things more unendurable yet,

and with them moments when agony must have reached its apogee, when she felt herself diademed not with a tiara, but with pain, when she would have bartered her well, the transformation of her husband from a coward into a cannibal; the miseries of the shabby-genteel, the backseat of outworn monarchy, incidents poignant in themselves, yet followed by others more poignant still, the suicide of her cousin, the murder of her nephew, the destruction of one sister and the assassination of another. If ever a woman has sipped on horrors, it is she.

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hereditary, and had he lived would have been transmitted and maintained. When life was struck from him, not by a bullet, as has been said, but by a bottle—which, parenthetically, crushed his skull—there ensued a general stupor into which presently filtered the discernment that the House of Hapsburg was doomed, that values of another brood, birds of prey that nested, not within the realm, but without, were already hovering at the frontiers, waiting but for the Emperor of Austria's death to baton on Austria's heart.

It would be convenient, as already noted, and it would also be in accordance with the traditions which Mrs. Southworth, Miss Corelli and other lady novelists have preserved and presented, to ascribe the tragedy of Rudolph's death to the malign influence of a family curse. But fiction and history differ. Even otherwise, and admitting the literary advantage of such a process, in this instance it would be defective. In the Wittelsbach gallery there is one portrait which as yet fate has left unmarred. It is

that of Elizabeth's third sister, the least known of the original four.

The Prince who came to her found her not among the oaks of the forest, but in the tawdriness of the Naples Court. He, too, was a son of Bombe, a younger brother of the coward of Gaeta, yet in making her Countess of Talm it is rumored that he omitted to make her unhappy as well. Their union, tolerably effaced and entirely obscure, resulted in a girl who a few years ago married a Hohenzollern. But precisely as a family trait may skip a generation, so too may family fatality.

The gift of prophecy has gone, horoscopes have lost their meaning. What the future holds, what phantoms lie in wait for this particular descendant of an ill-omened house, none may foretell. Yet though her existence be more obscure than that of her mother, more effaced than that of her father, more insignificant than either, it will be serene in sweetness, if only by comparison with the tragic lives of those whose history is interconnected with her own and of which the assassination of an Empress resembles the climax.

EDGAR SALTUS.

PERSONS, OBJECTS AND DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE FORMING A CHAIN OF EVIDENCE AGAINST MRS. BOTKIN IN THE NOW FAMOUS CANDY POISONING CASE.

THE CASE AS IT STANDS. I
By Chief of Police Lees, of San Francisco.

IN this city we have secured four important facts in the Dunning-Deane murder case.

First, the candy was bought at the store of George Haas & Son about the 31st of July last, but the date is not yet definitely fixed. On that day Mrs. Botkin returned from a visit to Stockton.

Second, the handkerchief which was inclosed in the bomb box was bought at the City of Paris dry goods store. We are now hard at work to ascertain if Mrs. Botkin made that purchase.

Third, the superscription on the package, the note within and the anonymous letters were undoubtedly written by the same person. Whether that person is Mrs. Cordelia Botkin I am not prepared to say. Experts will analyze and compare her known writing with these examples, and their reports will have an important bearing on the case.

Fourth, which is the most direct and important circumstance against the accused woman, is the purchase by her on June 1 of two ounces of arsenic, the toxic which caused the death of the two women and the identification of Mrs. Botkin as the purchaser by Clerk Grey, together with her own admission of the fact.

We are now gathering collateral evidence to join with these facts, and in a few days it will be decided whether or not this woman is to be delivered to the authorities of Delaware.

I cannot express an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of Mrs. Botkin, nor can I foreshadow the action of our Government.

error.

his investigations. As yet he does not commit himself.

Following the public announcement of Dunning's accusation and the important resemblance in the handwriting exhibited in the case, new important evidence came with almost daily regularity.

The diligent search made by the San Francisco police to locate the place at which the chocolate candy was made and the box and its contents sold met with splendid success.

It was found that the candy had been purchased at the store of George Haas & Son, about July 31, the day on which Mrs. Botkin returned to San Francisco from a visit to Stockton.

The box and part of the candy that carried death to Mrs. Dunning had been sent from Dover to the San Francisco authorities. Mr. Haas was able to identify them positively as having come from his establishment and he has so testified before the

Grand Jury.

It could not at first be told who had sold the box of candy in question. Since then it has been found that Miss Sylvia Heney made the sale on July 31 to a woman who she is ready to swear was Mrs. Botkin. She has testified to that effect before the Chief of Police. Her story is corroborated in every detail by Miss Dittmer, another saleswoman in the Haas store, who remembers the circumstances of the sale and can also identify the purchaser as Mrs. Botkin.

Another clue that links the fatal box candy to Mrs. Botkin was discovered a days ago. Before August 4, the day which the candy was mailed, Mrs. Botkin had been a guest at the Victoria. Since she left no one else has occupied room she stayed in.

While cleaning this room about a week ago, a housemaid found a small paper wafer, such as is used by confectioners in sealing candy boxes. The name Haas was stamped upon it in raised letters. This forms another link in the curious chain of circumstantial evidence that is gradually tightening about Mrs. Botkin.

The next important discovery made by the police was that the handkerchief which had been enclosed in the box of candy was purchased at the City of Paris dry goods store, Geary and Stockton streets, San Francisco.

With this fact established, it was next necessary to find which clerk in the store had made the sale.

To do this, it was necessary to go over all the sales slips for the greater part of July. The handkerchief, of which an exact reproduction from photograph is given here, was one of a twenty-five-cent lot.

After a careful examination of the duplicate sales slips, it was found that a handkerchief of this lot had been sold August 3, by Miss Alice Bolster, Unfort-

unately, however, Miss Bolster does not recall the circumstances of the sale, and doubts very much that she would be able to identify the person who bought the handkerchief.

However, the inevitable bit of circum-

stantial evidence that seems to come up in this case whenever needed, is here present, too; for on the day of the sale Mrs. Botkin is known to have cashed a money order at the store. She was a frequent visitor at the City of Paris, and had often, according to the bookkeeper's statement, cashed money orders at the desk. The bookkeeper recalls the circumstances of August 3 very well, and his statement, together with the tracing of the money order through the postal channels, will perhaps form another strong link in the evidence.

With the sale of the handkerchief thus firmly established, the police turned at their energies in trying to find out when the poison that was placed in the chocolates had been obtained.

This was, of course, a definite task, a laborious one, for it necessitated a careful examination of the drug store record of poison sales throughout the city. Every time a drug clerk sells a poisonous drug he is required by law to record the fact upon books specially kept for the purpose. It is a precaution for just such emergencies as the present case gives rise to.

Examining the poison records the detectives at first looked up only the days of the last of July and the first part of August, when Mrs. Botkin was known to be in San Francisco. In this manner they made an unsuccessful examination of the poison book at the Owl drug store and continued their rounds.

After they left the clerks of the store, becoming interested in the matter, began to look over the books themselves. They examined further back than the detectives had done, and came upon the entry reproduced at the top of this page.

From this it will be seen that June 1 Mrs. Botkin—although the clerk entered the name as "Botkin"—bought two ounces of arsenic, ostensibly for the purpose of bleaching. The clerk who made the sale was Grey. As soon as he saw the entry in the book he recalled every detail of the sale, and stood ready to identify the woman to whom he sold the arsenic.

This he was soon called upon to do. He was taken to the matron's room in the City Prison, where Mrs. Botkin is confined, and immediately pointed her out as the one whose name he had registered as "Botkin" in the poison book.

Confronted with such conclusive evidence as this, Mrs. Botkin admitted a few days later she had made this purchase of arsenic. She had previously insisted she could not remember any time at which she had bought any poisonous drug, or her lawyers, however, told rather curtly that she had already mentioned to him the fact of this purchase of June 1, certainly seems as though fate were springing to make the case against Mrs. Botkin as bad as possible.

Drug Clerk Grey states that the arsenic he sold to Mrs. Botkin was in the powdered form. Next comes the damning coincidence that the chemical analysis of the poison made at Dover shows that arsenic put into the chocolates was also the form of powder.

The four important links of evidence of here have been summarized briefly in the Sunday Journal by Chief of Police Lees, of San Francisco, who has been successful in preparing the case as it stands.

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